

## **PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

The Public Works/Safety Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, in Conference Room No. 1 at the City Office Building.

Present:	Ron Christianson	.....	Chair
	Audrey Nelsen	.....	Vice Chair
	Steve Ahmann	.....	Member
	Andrew Plowman	.....	Member

Others present: Public Works Director Sean Christensen; Chief of Police Jim Felt; Fire Chief Frank Hanson; Police Officer Chris Flatten; Finance Director Steve Okins; Director of Planning and Development Services Bruce Peterson; Jason Ver Steeg, Duininck, Inc.; citizen Beverly Donley; citizen Joshua Erickson.

#### Item No. 1      Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christianson at 4:45 p.m.

#### Item No. 2      Public Comments

Citizen Beverly Donley, 904 Becker Avenue SW, spoke about traffic concerns of the uncontrolled intersection at the corner of Becker Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

#### Item No. 3      Police Update (Information)

Police Chief Jim Felt noted the jail census for July 14, 2015 was 170; 93 inmates from the Department of Corrections, 76 inmates from Kandiyohi County, 1 inmate from Swift County and 1 inmate from Chippewa County. The calls for service for the previous two weeks totaled 939. The majority of the calls were for traffic stops, followed by public assists and animal complaints. The total calls for service so far this year is approximately 11 days ahead of 2014 at this date. The new canine Axel was available for a meet and greet at the meeting with his handler, Officer Chris Flatten. Axel will be completing his drug certification in the upcoming week and will be fitted for a vest after he has reached 18 months of age. The committee discussed the recent criminal activity of thefts from cars and garages and the Neighborhood Watch program utilizing the website [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com). With the departure of Frank Hanson to the Fire Department and the retirement Mike Markkanen, the Police Department anticipates starting the hiring process of two new officers after the Police Commission meeting on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. The weekend parking concerns of the Central Business District were noted.

Fire Chief Frank Hanson introduced himself to the Committee as the new Chief as of June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hanson has resided in Willmar his whole life, and has been a member of the Willmar Fire Department for the past 22 years as well as Police Officer for the past 20 years. The total calls for service for the previous two weeks totaled 10, and included several fire calls, bonfires, vehicle accidents and lift assists. The total calls for service so far this year is 187, up from 155 at this time last year. Chief Hanson recapped the regulations for bonfires in City limits needing to be in a pit or container and 3 feet in diameter, 25 feet from any structure, have a water source to put out the fire, and must be attended until fully extinguished.

#### Item No. 4      Purchase of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and Spare Bottles (Resolution)

Staff brought forth, for approval, the authorization to purchase 50 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and spare bottles for the Fire Department. The current SCBA's and bottles were purchased in 2001, with their useful life of 15 years to be reached on April 1, 2016. If the new units are ordered in 2015, the department will save about \$15,000 versus ordering in 2016 and not having enough funding in the CIP for

the increased price after the first of the year with the company invoicing us in January of 2016. The total cost of the units and bottles totals \$330,812.66 and will be budgeted in the 2016 CIP. The old units will be disassembled and some of bottles sold to interested parties.

A motion was made by Council Member Ahmann, seconded by Council Member Plowman to approve the purchase of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units and spare bottles in the amount of \$330,812.66 from Emergency Response Solutions. The motion carried.

Item No. 5      Request to Purchase/Replace Biosolids Pickup Truck and Blade (Resolution)

Staff presented, for approval, the purchase/replacement of one Biosolids pickup truck and blade in accordance with the 2015 CIP and Vehicle Replacement Schedule. The current unit, a 2005 Ford F-250 and blade, is to be replaced with a 2016 Ford F-250 XL 4WD truck with V plow from Nelson Auto Center under the Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative in the amount of \$35,783.27. \$51,000 was budgeted in the CIP for the truck and blade, and the current unit will be sold at the City auction.

A motion was made by Council Member Ahmann, seconded by Council Member Plowman to approve the purchase/replacement of one Biosolids pickup truck and blade from Nelson Auto Center in the amount of \$35,783.27. The motion carried.

Item No. 6      Old Rule Tire Building Parking Discussion (Motion)

Staff brought forth, for information, concerns from a new business owner who purchased a downtown building located at 102 6<sup>th</sup> Street SW and is addressing possibilities of using City land as a public parking lot for her customers as well as other citizens in the area. The Committee discussed the site, formally the Rule Tire building lot, is currently a gravel lot and would only require signage to create a temporary lot until it is determined if the property will be sold.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Nelsen, seconded by Council Member Plowman to approve the designation of the lot as a public parking lot until it is determined what the City would like to do with the property. The motion carried.

Item No. 7      Water View Phase 2 School Project Infrastructure Improvements (Information)

Duininck Engineer Jason Ver Steeg brought forth, for information, the proposal of the Water View Phase 2 school project infrastructure improvements. Duininck first presented the information on the extension of 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE connecting to Lakeland Drive at the Public Works/Safety Committee meeting on April 29, 2014. A parcel of land in this location has been identified as a possible site for the new elementary school and Duininck staff is presenting the concept of a cost share agreement for infrastructure needs to accommodate the school as well as the extension of the street. The design was noted as a preliminary adaption of the school based on the specifications given by the school. Mr. Ver Steeg discussed possible benefits Duininck staff has identified, with rebuttal of the benefits given by City Engineer Sean Christensen.

The proposal was received for information by the Committee.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. by Chair Christianson.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean E. Christensen, P.E.  
Public Works Director